

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 19-46 are pending in the application; that claims 27-39 are allowed; that claims 20-24, 40 and 43-45 are objected to; and that claims 19, 25-26, 41-42 and 46 are rejected. By this response, claims 19, 25-26 and 42-43 have been cancelled, and claims 40-41 and 44-46 have been amended. Thus, claims 20-24, 27-41, and 44-46 are pending in the application.

Allowed and Allowable Claims

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 27-39. Furthermore, claims 20-24 and 43-45 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, claims 20-24 were already indicated as allowable in the previous Office Action dated May 8, 2003, and were amended to place them in condition for allowance in the last amendment, dated October 7, 2003. A telephone call between Applicants' attorney and the Examiner on January 29, 2004 confirmed this error in the last Office Action. Hence, claims 20-24 are believed to be allowable in the present amended form.

Claim Objections

Claim 40 is objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "and operative to generate a vibration force generated by the axially reciprocating machine" is unclear. Claim 40 has been amended to overcome the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C., §103

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Champion, et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,836,165 A), in view of *Livingstone, et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,018,357 A). Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Champion, et al.*, as modified by *Livingstone, et al.*, as applied to claim 19, above, and further in view of *Nakanishi, et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,117,642 A). Claims 41, 42 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Funatsu, et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,079,960 A) in view of *Champion, et al.*

Claims 19, 42 and 43 have been cancelled herein and the base independent claim for claim 46 has been added.

Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

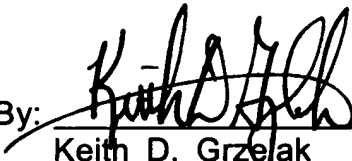
For all the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully

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requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview before issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

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